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FIRST DAY'S SESSION OF THE GREAT DREYFUS TRIAL.

THE CASE DISCUSSED FOR THE JOURNAL

BY

MADAME DREYFUS,
MRS. EMILY CRAWFORD,

CAPTAIN ALFRED DREYFUS.

GEORGES CLEMENCEAU,
HENRI ROCHEFORT,

On This Momentous Inquiry Hinge the Integrity of the French Republic, the Honor of Its Army and the Rehabilitation of a Martyr.

"I am Innocent!" Thrice Cried the Prisoner, in a Voice Sounding More Like the Wail of a Hunted Animal Than That of a Human Being.

CAPTAIN DREYFUS EXPRESSES THROUGH THE JOURNAL HIS GRATITUDE TO HIS AMERICAN SYMPATHIZER.

RENNES, Brittany, Aug. 7, 1899.

To the Editor of the New York Journal:

My brother, Captain Dreyfus, bids me send you the following message, which for reasons of seclusion and military restraint he is unable to personally transmit.

MATHIEU DREYFUS.

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: I have every hope of being a free man, and perhaps I shall be within a week.

Militant justice will soon be triumphant.

In spite of my many weary days of exile and disgrace, I have many things for which to be thankful. Among these things are the restoration to my family, the rehabilitation of our name and the vindication of the French Army. All these make up for many sad memories.

I hope soon to thank formally the distinguished Americans whose congratulations were cabled me by the Journal on the day of my arrival in France.

ALFRED DREYFUS,



Captain Alfred Dreyfus.

From a photograph taken in the courtyard of the Military School on January 4, 1895, immediately after his degradation.

GUARDED by gendarmes within the hall of trial, hidden from the people as he passed from his prison to the Lycee, pallid and prematurely gray, Alfred Dreyfus, captain, of the Fourteenth, stirred France yesterday from Brittany to the Channel.

The prisoner's cry of "Innocent!" his appearance, the military glitter of the trial board, the harsh demeanor of the presiding judge, the historical associations of the place, and the knowledge of the national interests involved—all combined to make the court-martial indeed the most noteworthy of the age.

On this and the following pages will be found reports of the trial and statements on the issues from some of the most representative writers and thinkers of France.

RENNES, France, Aug. 7.—The second trial by court-martial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, of the Fourteenth Regiment of Artillery, sentenced in 1894 to imprisonment for life in a fortress, after having been convicted of delivering to the agents of a foreign power documents connected with the defence of France, opened in the Lycee here at 7:10 this morning.

The prisoner entered the court room with a firm step. His face was pallid, he was partly bald, and his gray hair was closely cropped.

Dreyfus answered the formal questions of the President of the Court, Colonel Jouaust as to his name, age, etc., in a clear, determined voice. He sat facing the members of the court, with his hands resting on his knees, an apparently impassible figure. X163

So far as Rennes is concerned, the trial opened in an atmosphere of perfect tranquillity. The population was apparently indifferent, only a small crowd of people, at most about fifty persons, having gathered outside the entrance to the Lycee by 6 o'clock in the morning, and a majority of these were newspaper men.

The Prefect of Police and the Chief of the Secret Police, M. Viguier, arrived at the Lycee shortly before 6 o'clock and began superintending the police measures. At that hour only half a dozen gendarmes were visible about the building. They were stationed about the entrance of the Lycee and inside the garden in front of it.

The garden is separated from the sidewalk of the Avenue de la Gare, on which the Lycee is situated, by a high iron railing, within which no one was allowed to pass until Dreyfus was transferred from his quarters in the military prison to a room within the Lycee building, where he awaited the summons to appear before the court.

Strong detachments of gendarmes, mounted and on foot began to arrive at about 6 o'clock, and took up positions in the side streets about the Lycee and in all the by-streets leading to the Avenue de la Gare.

At 6:15 the Prefect gave orders to close the Avenue de la Gare for three hundred yards in front of the Lycee, and also to close all the streets leading into the avenue. Consequently gendarmes were immediately drawn up across the avenue, and the space mentioned was cleared of all spectators.

A detachment of infantry was then stationed across the avenue in two double lines, leaving between them a passage for Dreyfus to cross the avenue from the prison to the entrance to the Lycee.

The crowd, which by that time had increased to a few hundreds, was kept by gendarmes at a distance of 150 yards on either side of this passage.

Captain Dreyfus leaves his Prison.

Dreyfus soon afterward emerged from the military prison, escorted by a lieutenant and four gendarmes. The party crossed the roadway quickly and disappeared within the Lycee, the hedges of soldiers hiding the prisoner from view.

From 6:30 to 7 o'clock the principal personages in the court-martial arrived.

The various generals interested passed into the building with hardly a cheer from the spectators, General Mercier (who was Minister of War when Dreyfus was originally convicted) alone being greeted with a few cries of "Vive l'Armee!" "Vive Mercier!" as he drove up in a closed carriage.

Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart (the former Chief of the Secret Intelligence Bureau of the French Army, whose favorable attitude toward the prisoner has done much to bring about a revision of the latter's sentence) arrived at the Lycee on foot at 6:40, wearing a high silk hat and a black frock coat, with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor in his buttonhole.

There was no demonstration when he appeared, but Picquart appeared to be in a most cheerful mood, smiling and chatting with his friends.

If an opinion may be formed by Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart's bearing, he is sanguine of a favorable issue of the trial.

The scene inside the court room was most animated. Every inch of space was filled a quarter of an hour before the proceedings opened.

The large, airy, well-lighted room in which the trial takes place is in the form of a concert hall, with a stage and proscenium. The platform of the stage has been brought forward beyond the footlights. The room is painted a light brown, with the names of famous Bretons, such as Le Sage, Renan and Chateaubriand, inscribed in golden letters on an ornamental band about midway between the floor and ceiling.

A long table, covered with dark blue cloth, was ranged in front of the stage, behind which were the seats of the members of the court-martial, a higher-backed armchair having been provided for the President. The seats were of polished mahogany and were upholstered in dark red cloth.

Supplementary Judges Also Sit.

Behind the members of the court sat the Supplementary Judges, who must attend all sittings and be able to replace any member who may fall ill or otherwise be unable to be present. Behind the Supplementary Judges were a few privileged members of the public.

On a portion of the stage extending in front of the proscenium was placed the bar at which the witnesses were heard. The bar has a wooden frame of light polished oak. It stood out prominently against the dark cloth-covered